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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1947.

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Port Medical Officer of Health :

DAWSON C. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Port Sanitary Officer :

G. E. CHAMBERLAIN, M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. Meat & Food Inspector.

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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1947.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted
by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
to you my Annual Report on the Health Administration of the
Port of Boston during the year ended 31st. December, 1947.
The report has been compiled in accordance with the
requirements of Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health.

During 1947 the trade of the
Port has again shown a considerable increase, the number of
vessels entering the Port during the year being more than
double the figure for 1946. The Health Administration
however, has continued to function smoothly leaving little
untoward to report, and I should like to take this
opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Port Manager
and Officers of H.M. Customs; also to the Port Sanitary
Officer and other Members of the Public Health Department
Staff for their co-operation and assistance throughout the
year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.C. Robertson

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8, Bridge Street,
BOSTON.

March, 1948.

BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER, 1947.

TABLE A.

I. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

	Number	Ton-nage.	Number inspected.	Number reported	Number of vessels to be defect-ive.	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied.	Number of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	Number of Vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
Foreign.			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Sanitary Inspector				
* Steamer.	74.	38,356	9.	20.	6.	6.	Nil.	2.
* Motor.	197	26,183	16.	27.	3.	3.	Nil.	1.
Sailing.	Nil.	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing.	Nil.	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Foreign.	271.	64,539	25	47	9.	9.	Nil.	3.
Coastwise.								
* Steamer.	118.	24,245	8	17	4.	4.	Nil.	Nil.
* Motor.	346.	41,550	14	39	4.	4.	Nil.	1.
Sailing.	Nil.	Nil.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing.	1.	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Coastwise.	465.	65,809	22.	56.	8.	8.	Nil.	1.
Total Foreign and Coastwise.	736.	130,348	47.	103.	17.	17.	Nil.	4.

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. CHARACTER AND TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.

(a) Passenger Traffic during the Year.

No. of Passengers.	1st. Class.	2nd. Class.	3rd. Class.	Transmigrants.
Inwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Outwards	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

(b) Cargo Traffic.

The Principal Imports are :-

Fertilisers.	Deals.	Pine Logs.	Granite.
Grain.	Battens and Boards.	Manure.	Shingle.
Flour.	Sleepers.	Binder Twine.	General Continental goods.
Potatoes.	Telegraph Poles.	Steel Billets.	
Feeding Stuffs.	Softwood Logs.	Bog Ore.	

The Principal Exports are :-

Grain.	Seeds.	Pig Iron.	Coal.
Potatoes.	Sugar.	Basic Slag.	Sleepers.
General Continental Goods.		Fireclay.	

(c) Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.

<u>Finland.</u>	<u>Holland.</u>	<u>Germany.</u>	<u>Belgium.</u>	<u>France.</u>	<u>Norway.</u>
Borga.	Hansweert.	Emden.	Antwerp.	Rouen.	Oslo.
Kemi.	Flushing.	Hamburg.	Ghent.	St. Malo.	Sandvik.
Abo.	Maasluis.	Leer.		Calais.	Porsgrund.
Pernoviken.	Rotterdam.	Lubeck.	<u>Sweden.</u>		Fredrikshavn.
Fredrikshavn.	Ternheusen.	Wilhelmshaven.		Spain.	
Valkon.	Willenstad.	Papenburg.	Haparanda.		
Kotka.	Zaandam.	Bremen.		Ferrol.	
Montylusto.	Zieriksee.	Wismar.	<u>Russia.</u>		
Wasa.	Middleharnis.			Mesane.	
Uleaborg.	Dordrecht.				
Skogby.	Delfzyl.				

Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port of Boston is not an approved port, under the Aliens Order, 1920, for the landing of aliens.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

1. Source of Supply.

Water is supplied, both to the Port and to shipping, from the mains of the Boston Corporation Water Supply.

2. Hydrants and Hosepipes. Precautions taken against contamination.

All such fittings are properly housed in protective boxes to prevent contamination. All receive constant flushing by regular use, and are generally maintained in a satisfactory condition.

3. Water Boats.

There are no water boats in the Port.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 AND 1945.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health. :-

H.M. Customs and all shipping agents are issued by the Public Health Department with supplies of prescribed forms, which, after completion, are returned to the Medical Officer of Health.

2. Boarding of Vessels on Arrival :-

All infected or suspected vessels are boarded by the Medical Officer of Health, either at the Pilot Sloop or at the Landing Stage immediately outside the Dock Gates. This of course depends upon the type of disease or other conditions to be dealt with.

3. Notification to the Authority of inward vessels requiring special attention. (Wireless messages, land signal stations, information from pilots, Customs Officers, etc.) :-

Each week, a detailed list of infected ports is extracted from the Ministry of Health Weekly Record. This list is forwarded to the Port Manager for the information of Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, etc. Arrangements are in force for immediate notification to be given to the Medical Officer of Health of any vessels requiring special attention.

The Medical Officer of Health is also connected by telephone with the Pilot Boarding Station, which is situated in the Wash, five miles from Port.

The telegraphic address : "Port-health, Boston" remains registered with the General Post Office.

4. Mooring Stations designated under Article 10 :-

(a) Within the Docks : The vacant berth in Boston Dock.

(b) Outside the Docks : The Quarantine Station - "Clay Hole".

5. Particulars of any Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14. :-

Nil.

6. Experience of working Article 16. :-

It has not been necessary during the year 1947 to take any action to restrict boarding or leaving ships.

7. What, if any, arrangements have been made for :-

(a) Premises and Waiting Rooms for Medical Examination :

There are no arrangements in existence, or in my opinion necessary. Having regard to the type of shipping using the Dock, I am satisfied that medical examinations can most conveniently be carried out on board ships.

(b) Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons and Clothing and other articles :

Arrangements in existence provide for disinfection of infected quarters under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer. Bedding etc. can be disinfected by steam in the steam disinfecter at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

7. (Continued).

- (c) Premises for the Temporary Accommodation of Persons for whom such Accommodation is required for the Purposes of the Regulations :

Such accommodation is available at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox and other Infectious Diseases :

Isolation Hospital accommodation is provided adjacent to the main County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital, near the Borough of Boston Boundary and within convenient reach of the Port.

- (e) Ambulance Transport :

A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Isolation Hospital.

- (f) Supervision of Contacts :

All contacts are interrogated personally, and are fully informed as to their obligations. At the same time a note is taken of the address to which each is proceeding, and if this is situated outside the area of the Authority, prompt notification of the fact is given to the Local Authority concerned. A supply of pre-paid printed post-cards is available, and one is issued in every case to enable the Port Medical Officer to be notified of any change of address.

8. Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological Examination of Rats for Plague :-

Any such examinations would be arranged through the Public Health Laboratory Service of the Medical Research Council.

9. Arrangements for other Bacteriological or Pathological Examinations :-

Satisfactory arrangements are in existence for such examinations to be carried out at either of the undermentioned Laboratories.:-

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.

(Directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health).

- (b) The Holland County Council Public Health Laboratory, Boston.

(Provided by the Holland County Council).

10. Information as to the Location, days and hours of the available facilities for the Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Diseases among Merchant Seamen under International arrangements, including In-patient Treatment; also as to the steps taken to make these facilities known to Seamen :-

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease are administered by the Public Health Department of the Holland County Council.

Out-patient Treatment is available at The Clinic, County Emergency Hospital, London Road, Boston, which is within convenient reach of the Port. The fixed times of the Clinic are as follows :

Tuesdays	...	...	...	10 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
Wednesdays	...	...	...	6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

If necessary, special appointments are made for seamen unable to attend the fixed clinics.

10. (Continued).

In-patient Treatment can be arranged if necessary, such cases being dealt with in the Scarthoe Road Institution, Grimsby.

In order to acquaint seamen with all details of facilities available to them, suitable posters are displayed in various parts of the Dock premises. The information is also brought to the notice of masters of vessels in the course of inspection.

11. Arrangements for the Interment of Dead :-

Satisfactory arrangements can be made for the interment of dead at the Boston Corporation Cemetery.

12. Other Matters, if any, requiring or receiving Attention :-

There are no items to report under this heading.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1947.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Scabies.	Nil.	5.	4.	1.2

N.B. The five cases of scabies were successfully treated at the Borough of Boston Health Centre.

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the Voyage, but disposed of prior to Arrival.

Disease.	No. of Cases during the Year 1947.		No. of Vessels concerned.	Average No. of Cases for Previous 5 years.
	Passengers.	Crew.		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred during the year 1947 and no plague-infected rats were discovered; neither did any outbreak of Malaria occur on an arriving ship.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

1. Steps taken for Detection of Rodent Plague :-

(a) In Ships in the Port :

Particular attention is paid to this matter by the Port Sanitary Officer in the course of his inspection of ships.

(b) On Quays, Wharves, Warehouses, &c., in the vicinity of the Port :

The Boston Port Health Authority is responsible for the administration of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act within the area. All premises are subject to frequent inspection by the Port Sanitary Officer.

2. Measures taken to prevent the Passage of Rats between Ships and the Shore :-

Masters of ships which are suspected of being rat-infested are instructed to provide "mushrooms" on their ropes and to take all precautions possible to prevent passage of rats from ship to shore.

3. Methods of Deratification of :-

(a) Ships :

Trapping or poisoning and sulphur fumigation where necessary.

(b) Premises in the Vicinity of Docks or Quays :

Under the general direction of the Port Sanitary Officer, all such premises are kept under constant surveillance by the Authority's Rodent Officer. Pre-baiting, poisoning, gassing, etc., are carried out as and when necessary.

4. Measures taken for the Detection of Rat Prevalence in Ships and on Shore :-

(a) The Port Sanitary Officer carries out examinations of ships, also of the Dock area.

(b) The Authority's Rodent Officer carries out frequent routine surveys of the Dock area.

5. Rat-proofing :-

(a) To what extent are Docks, Wharves and Warehouses, &c., Rat Proof ?

The Fruit Shed (South side) is of iron construction with a concrete floor, whilst the general merchandise warehouses on the North Side of the Dock are of concrete.

(b) Action taken to extend Rat-proofing.:

i. In Ships, any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Sanitary Officer.

ii. On Shore, the existing buildings are of satisfactory construction and are maintained in a rat-proof condition.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1947.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

Number of Rats.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Brown	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	7	-	2	18
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

Number of Rats.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total in Year
Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Brown	-	-	10	-	-	17	-	-	20	-	-	10	57
Species not recorded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Examined	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil
Infected with Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Nil

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels, or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total Number of Such Vessels arriving (1)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO ₂ (2)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (3)	Nil
Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN (4)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (5)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning, &c., were employed. (6)	Nil
Number of Rats killed (7)	Nil
Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat Destruction were not carried out (8)	Nil

TABLE H.

Deratification Certificates and Deratification Exemption Certificates issued during the year.

This Table is not applicable to the Port of Boston, which is not one of the Ports approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratification Certificates and Deratification Exemption Certificates.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel.	Number inspected during the Year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural Defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	92.	Nil.	1.	9.
Other Nations	58.	Nil.	Nil.	8.

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940 :-

No occasion for any action under the above Regulations arose during the year 1947.

2. Shell-fish :-

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the Area of the Port Health Authority, in the Wash. These are periodically inspected, and samples of the shell-fish are taken for analysis.

No action was necessary during the year 1947, either under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

3. Number of Samples of Food examined by :-

(a) Bacteriologist	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) Analyst	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.